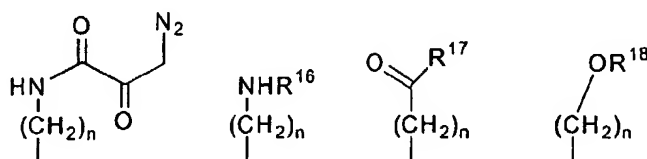


wherein PEG is polyethyleneglycol, ~~R<sup>19</sup>-R<sup>24</sup> optionally incorporates a pendent group comprising a cleavable linker unit, and may additionally comprise groups individually selected from the same groups as defined for R or may comprise a structure selected from the group consisting of [[~~



~~]]~~

wherein ~~n and R<sup>16</sup> to R<sup>18</sup> and R<sup>16</sup> to R<sup>18</sup> are as defined in claim 9.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 9, wherein s is an integer ~~[[of]] in the range from 1 to 10, preferably 1.~~

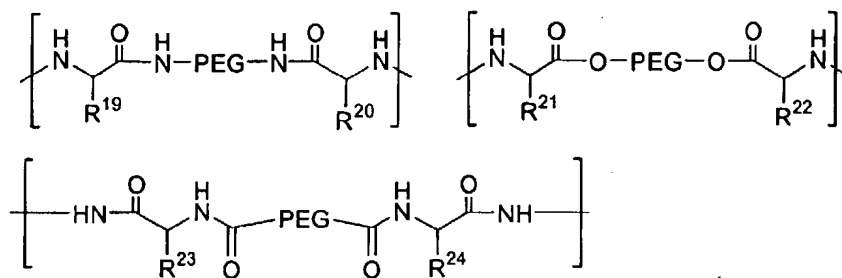
PH  
9/8/04  
12. <sup>29 28</sup> (Currently Amended) ~~[[a]]~~ <sup>12</sup> A polymer according to claim ~~[[9]]~~ <sup>29</sup>, wherein at least one of R<sup>14</sup> to R<sup>24</sup> incorporates a cleavable bond, ~~preferably a group (I) or one or more peptide bonds.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 9, wherein the polymer is conjugated to a bioactive agent, ~~preferably an anti-cancer agent, most preferably, doxorubicin, daunomycin or taxol.~~

14. (Currently Amended) A polymer according to claim 9, wherein the number average molecular weight is in the range of 0.5kDa-400kDa.

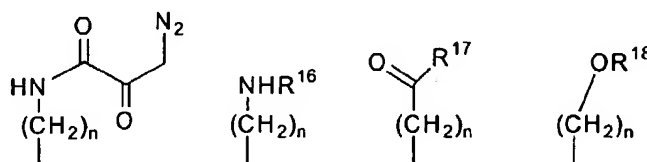
28. (Canceled).

<sup>12</sup>  
~~29.~~ (New) A polymer according to claim 10, wherein L comprises a structure selected from the group consisting of



wherein PEG

is polyethyleneglycol,  $\text{R}^{19}$ - $\text{R}^{24}$  are individually selected from the same groups as defined for R or comprise a structure selected from the group consisting of



wherein n and  $\text{R}^{16}$  to  $\text{R}^{18}$  are as defined in claim 9,  $\text{R}^{19}$ - $\text{R}^{24}$  optionally incorporating a pendent group comprising a cleavable linker unit.

30. (New) A polymer according to claim 1 wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are hydrogen.

31. (New) A polymer according to claim 13, wherein the polymer is conjugated to an anti cancer agent.